

Appl. No. 09/883,014

PATENT

Amdt. dated: November 30, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached seven (7) sheets of drawings include replacement Figs. 1-7. These 7 drawing sheets are copies of the original 7 drawing sheets that have been made clear and readable as requested in the Office Action dated October 2, 2006.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 1/7

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the entry of this Amendment, claims 8-11, 14-16, and 18-25 were pending in this application. Claims 8 and 21 have been amended, no claims have been added, and no claims have been canceled herein. Thus, claims 8-11, 14-16, and 18-25 are pending in this application. The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the rejections for at least the reasons below.

The applicants respectfully point out that claims 21-25 were added by the Request for Continued Examination filed on August 4, 2006. The Office Action acknowledges and indicates entry of these amendments. However, the claim status indicated in the Office Action does not reflect entry of claims 21-25. Furthermore, no status or reason for rejection of these claims is given. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request clarification of the status of these claims.

New corrected drawings are attached in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) as required by the Examiner. Also in compliance, these drawings are being transmitted within two months of the mailing date of this Office Action.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection, Lee in view of Raghunathan and further in view of Garcia-Chiesa

In the Office Action claims 8-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,108,691 to Lee et al. (hereinafter "Lee") in view of U. S. Publication No. 2002/0120716 to Raghunathan et al. (hereinafter "Raghunathan") and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0099723 to Jorge Garcia-Chiesa (hereinafter "Garcia-Chiesa"). The Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action does not establish a

prima facie case of obviousness in rejecting these claims. Therefore, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Office Action must establish: 1) some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or combine their teachings; 2) a reasonable expectation of success of such a modification or combination; and 3) a teaching or suggestion in the cited prior art of each claimed limitation. See MPEP §706.02(j). However, the references cited by the Office Action do not teach or suggest each claimed limitation. For example, none of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests searching a directory or denying access to a view of entries in a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field.

Lee "relates to an on-line directory of information including electronic mail (email) addresses." (Col. 1, lines 13-14) More specifically, Lee provides "a system and method for allowing a user listed with a directory service to restrict display of his/her email address to others, while still allowing a sender to send a message to the user without revealing the user's email address to the sender." (Col. 1, lines 53-56) However, as noted by the Office Action, Lee does not disclose searching a directory or denying access to a view of entries in a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field.

Raghunathan relates to "a server framework that handles client requests to a database server by equitably distributing resources to the client requests." (Para. 2) Under Raghunathan, one or more client requests are made to a server for data, the requests are separated into smaller units, and each smaller unit is then serviced in the order it is received. (Para 23) However, as the Office Action has acknowledged, Raghunathan also does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination with Lee, searching a directory or denying access to a view of entries in a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field.

Garcia-Chiesa is relied upon by the Office Action to demonstrate a teaching of searching a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field and denying access to a view of entries in a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field. However, Garcia-Chiesa fails to correct the deficiencies of the Lee-Raghunathan combination. Rather, the portion of Garcia-Chiesa (paragraph 39) cited by the Office Action as teaching the missing elements recites in total:

"We have made all possible efforts to de-contextualize individual documents, a key example being the usage of the single character 0 within /0/ to fill Lotus Notes/Domino need for a "view" (ordering of documents). Once a user finds a document in any search engine [or via an equivalent sanitized link constructed with our techniques], if the user is deemed to be a human, will be replied by a "framed" content (one or more nested frameset/s). While the actual contents of each frame/set are customizable in the different commercial/products offerings derived from this technologies, we foresee as important the inclusion of a top frame with navigational, reference, etc tools for the virtual site, then a frame with the homepage of the actual site hosting the database, then a subframe with the contexts of the database, then finally what the user found in the search engine (the "document"). This has the advantage for the user that with just one click he/she moves from the link (in the search engine results page) to the actual document with all the relevant reference information that he/she would have had to navigate from the home page of the site to arrive to that document. This has also benefits for the site and content owners who see their storefronts processes being activated for branding, framing, etc."

However, nothing in this paragraph, alone or in combination with the other references, teaches or suggests searching a directory or denying access to a view of entries in a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field.

Claim 8, upon which claims 9-11 and 14 depend, recites in part "searching the shared directory to identify address entries in the shared directory which includes a plurality of address entries, each of the address entries including hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field, wherein searching the shared directory comprises matching the hierarchal information in the canonical form in the hidden field to the hierarchal information associated with the at least one entity initiating the query." None of the references, alone or in combination,

teaches or suggests searching a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field. For at least these reasons, claims 8-11 and 14 should be allowed.

Claim 15, upon which claims 16 and 18-20 depend, recites in part "a shared directory in communication with the server which includes a plurality of address entries, each of the address entries including hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field, the hierarchal information being associated with at least one entity of the plurality of entities having access to the shared directory; and wherein the network server is further configured to search the shared directory and, based on the queries, generate a first and at least one additional view of the address entries, wherein access to the first view is restricted and the at least one additional view is a subset of the first view and wherein the at least one additional view provides access to only those address entries in the first view for which the hierarchal information matches identification information for the one or more entities making the queries." None of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests denying access to a view of entries in a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field. For at least these reasons, claims 15-16 and 18-20 should be allowed.

Claim 21, upon which claims 22-25 depend recites in part "searching the shared directory to identify address entries in the shared directory wherein searching the shared directory comprises matching the hierarchal information in the canonical form in the hidden field to the hierarchal information associated with the at least one entity initiating the query." None of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests searching a directory based on hierarchal information in a canonical form in a hidden field. For at least these reasons, new claims 21-25 are also thought to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection, Lee, Raghunathan, Garcia-Chiesa and further in view of Singhani

In the Office Action claims 11 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Lee, Raghunathan and Garcia-Chiesa and further in

view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0104018 to Singhani et al. (hereinafter "Singhani"). The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims for at least the reason that claims 11 and 20 each depend upon a base claim that is thought to be allowable as discussed in detail above.

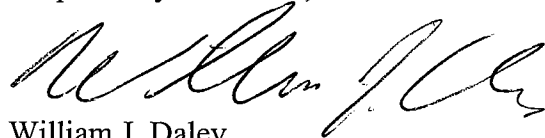
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Dated: November 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix: 7 sheets of Drawings, Figs. 1-7

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